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REMARKS

Claims 1-66 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration.

Applicants' representative notes with appreciation the indication that claims 2, 10-13, 17, 18, 23-28, 35, 36, 38-40, 43 and 48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Further, in accordance with the telephone conference of October 25, 2004 with Examiner Ehichioya, independent claims 1, 14, 32, 37, 47, 53, 57 and 66 have been amended, and claims 2, 17, 35, 38 and 48 have been cancelled herein to comport with the Examiner's indication. It is now believed that independent claims 1, 14, 32, 37, 47, 53, 57 and 66 and associated dependent claims are in condition for allowance. A version of all pending claims is found at pages 2-13. Favorable consideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

In addition, it should be noted that applicants' representative intends to file a continuation application to pursue the original and/or rejected claims.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 3-9, 14-16, 19, 22 and 32-34 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-9, 14-16, 19, 22 and 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett *et al.* (US 6,005,597) in view of Payton (US 5,790,935). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendments made herein incorporating the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner to independent claims 1, 14 and 32.

II. Rejection of Claims 37, 41, 42, 44, 47, 49-56 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 37, 41, 42, 44, 47, 49-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett *et al.* (US 6,005,597) in view of Macrae (US 6,233,734). Reversal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendments made herein incorporating the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner to independent claims 37, 47 and 53.

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III. Rejection of Claims 20-21, and 29-31 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 20-21 and 29-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett *et al.* (US 6,005,597) in view of Payton (US 5,790,935) and further in view of Macrae (US 6,233,734). Claims 20-21 and 29-31 depend from independent claim 14. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is moot in view of the amendments made herein incorporating the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner, to independent claim 14.

IV. Rejection of Claims 57-58 and 61 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 57-58 and 61 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Macrae (US 6,233,734) in view of Barrett *et al.* (US 6,005,597) in view of Payton (US 5,790,935) and further in view of Macrae (US 6,233,734). This rejection should be withdrawn in view of the amendments made to independent claim 57 incorporating allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner.

V. Rejection of Claims 59-60 and 62-65 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 59-60 and 62-65 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Macrae (US 6,233,734) in view of Barrett *et al.* (US 6,005,597) and further in view of Payton (US 5,790,935). Claims 59-60 and 62-65 depend from independent claim 57, which is now believed to be in condition for allowance as a consequence of the amendments made to independent claim 57 incorporating subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable.

VI. Rejection of Claim 66 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 66 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Macrae (US 6,233,734) in view of Barrett *et al.* (US 6,005,597) in view of Payton (US 5,790,935) and further in view of Macrae (US 6,233,734). Reversal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendments made herein incorporating subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner to the subject claim.

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CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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